REMARKS

Claim 3, the only independent claim, has been amended to clarify its language; no recitation of any claim has been narrowed by these changes. Claims 15-18 depend from Claim 3.

Early continued examination and passage to issue of this applicaiton are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings:

1. and 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

a photoelectric conversion area in which a plurality of pixels are two-dimensionally arranged in horizontal and vertical directions, wherein each of said of plurality of pixels includes a photoelectric conversion element and an amplification element which amplifies a signal from said photoelectric conversion element to output the amplified signal;

a plurality of first vertical output lines which output sequentially signals from the pixels arranged in the vertical direction;

a plurality of second vertical output lines which output sequentially signals from the pixels arranged in the vertical direction;

a first horizontal output line which outputs sequentially the signals from said plurality of first vertical output lines; and

a second horizontal output line which outputs sequentially the signals outputted from said plurality of second vertical output lines,

wherein said first horizontal output line is arranged on a side of a first side of said photoelectric conversion area, said second horizontal output line is arranged on a side of a second side of said photoelectric conversion area, and said first side and said

second side of said photoelectric conversion area are opposite to each other in the vertical direction;

a plurality of first load elements, wherein at least one first load element is arranged to each of said plurality of first vertical output lines; and

a plurality of second load elements, wherein at least one second load element is arranged to each of said plurality of second vertical output lines,

wherein said plurality of first load elements ~~are arranged at a first horizontal output line side of said plurality of first vertical output lines,~~ and said plurality of second load elements are arranged ~~at a second horizontal output line side of said plurality of vertical output lines~~ on sides opposite to each other with respect to said photoelectric conversion area.

4. - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said plurality of first vertical output lines and said plurality of second vertical output lines are arranged alternately.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising an addition circuit which adds to each other the signals from a plurality pf the pixels adjacent to each other.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the amplification element and the first load element construct a source follower, and the amplification element and the second load element construct a source follower circuit.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said plurality of first load elements are arranged between said photoelectric conversion area and said first horizontal output line, and said plurality of second load elements are arranged between said photoelectric conversion area and said second horizontal output line.